

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY





The original of this book is in the Cornell University Library.

There are no known copyright restrictions in the United States on the use of the text.

SERMON

Preach'd in the

CHAPPEL of Ormand-street,

On Sunday the 6th of February 1714.

Opon Occasion of the much Lamented DEATH

OFTHAT

Pious and Worthy Gentleman

ROBERT NELSON Esq;

Published at the Request of the TRUSTEES of the faid Chappel.

By J. MARSHALL L. L. D. And Morning Preacher of the fame.

Prov. 10. 7. The Memory of the Just is Blessed.

LONDON,

Printed for Sam. Keble at the Turk's-Head în Fleetstreet, 1714.

TO THE

Honourable and Worshipful

Sir Marmaduke Wyvill Bart.

Chairman and Treasurer.

John Afsleck Efq;
Francis Annesley Efq;
Mr. Robert Bricoe
Daniel Child Efq;
William Etterick Efq;
William Gore Efq;
Mr. Charles Hale
Mr. Matthew Hall
Robert Jennens Efq;

Paul Jodrell Efq;
John Isham Efq;
Charlwood Laughton Efq;
Charles Long Efq;
Sir Streynsham Master Kt.
Mr. James Moodey
Edward Nelthorp Efq;
John Office Efq;
The Hon. Tho. Wentworth Efq;

TRUSTEES

OF THE

Chappel in Ormond-street,

This Discourse Preached in the said Chappel, and Published at their Request, is humbly Dedicated

by their most Obedient

and Faithful Servant

J. Marshall.

Lately Published.

HE Church of England's Wish for the Re-Moring of Primitive Discipline; considered, in Order to its being brought to Effect. On which Occasion is shewn the Institution, Nature, End, and Necessity of Discipline in the Church of Christ.

London, Printed and Sold by Samuel Keble at the Turk's-Head in Fleetstreet. 1715.



Isaiah LVII. 1.

The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to beart, and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

HE known Idiom of Scripture Language will sufficiently warrant the Liberty I am about to take, of interpreting the Word, Righteous, in a Sense of Latitude, as expressive of all the Duty which every Man stands bound in, and which a good Man actually pays to the God who made him.

It is not here my purpose to detain you with any curious enquiry into the particular Occasion of the Prophets Complaint, or who the Person might be to whom it may be supposed to allude.

His Remark is general, and its Foundation is laid as deep as the very Root of our Nature; which disposes us to selfish and narrow Principles;

His Remark is general, and its Foundation is laid as deep as the very Root of our Nature; which disposes us to selfish and narrow Principles; to measure the Importance of all events by their nearer or remoter Relation to our own particular Interests; and thence to neglect those Issues of Providence, which are not directly levels at our selves, and come not home to our own Families or Persons.

But

But that this is a false and an erroneous Estimate, that we even misjudge our own particular advantages in this undue Calculation, the Prophet in my Text hath manifestly suggested; and the Reason of things confirms the Truth and Justice of his Observation.

For where-ever a Community suffers, each Member sustains his proportion of the Damage; now in the loss of such a Man as my Text hath pointed to us, the whole Community is a mighty Sufferer; and none but such as would exclude themselves from the *Privilege* of their Relation to it, may pretend an Exemption from their share in its common Burthens.

mon Burthens.

We have so lately sustain'd a loss of this kind, which touches so nearly upon this Neighbourhood and Assembly, that as I hope no Man who hears me will apprehend himself unconcern'd in it, so neither will he grudge the Minutes he shall spend in a few Resections upon our common Missortune.

Nothing would prevail with me to undertake the unequal Task, upon which I am entring, but that which I hope shall ever be Superior with me to all other regards, even the provoking you to love and to good works, and to an Imitation of every thing which is lovely and of good report.

From this single Motive I enter upon the Province unask'd and uninvited. The Modesty of our departed Friend, which cast a distinguish'd Lustre upon numberless other Virtues, carried him to his Grave in Privacy and Silence; nor were the Persons intrusted with the Care of his Obsequies at Liberty to adorn them with proper Honours. They have perform'd the part incumbent on them, and have

have confign'd his mortal Remains to the * Place whereunto he bequeath'd them, and in the manner which he had requested of them.

Yet I may well prefume, that even his Modesty itself would here give way, upon the suggestion that any Good would probably be done by the Blazoning his Virtues; fince this was a Motive which he never could withstand; it was equally the Business and Pleasure of his Life, and is therefore the fitter to attend him at his Death.

Upon a Subject so vast and comprehensive as this, I should neither know where to begin nor end, if I were not to confine my self within some restraint of Method and Order. And my Text hath very opportunely pointed to our Observation the Three following particulars.

I. A Character given of some certain Person,

who is here stiled a Righteous or a Merciful Man.

II. A general Remark made, that such Men are yet involv'd in the common Fate, and Die as well as others.

III. A Complaint, or an Observation made, upon the Indolence and Unconcernedness of Standers by, who Regret not the Loss as they ought to do, nor fufficiently confider, that the Righteous is ta-

ken away from the evil to come.

The Character stands first in order; but I must beg leave to reserve it for my Conclusion; wherein we shall see how well it tallies with the Virtues of our deceased Friend, and with the Graces of his bleffed Soul, who is now at rest with the God of bis Salvation.

^{*} In the Coemetery purchased for St. George's Chappel when it Proceed

Proceed we therefore to the general Remark here made, that such Men are involved in the common Fate, and Die as well as others.

Nor will the Wonder be great, that so it should be, when it is consider'd that the very brightest Virtues have always an allay; that there is not a Man upon Earth, who doeth good so perfectly and compleatly, but that be sinneth sometimes, and even his good Deeds themselves are chargeable with their Follies cleaving to them. So that even in the best attainments of the best of Men, there is ever abundant matter of Humiliation and Sorrow. And this those best of Men are ever most apt and ready to acknowledge, as having upon their Minds the bighest Sense of their Duty, and the bumblest apprehensions of their own deservings.

Death is therefore the irreversible Sentence to which the best and worst of Men are equally obnoxious. The great and unerring Difference between them, is sounded in after-Consequences; when the Righteous shall have a proper guard assigned them, to conduct them safe into Abraham's Bosom, and the Wicked be lest, affrighted and appall'd, in the Hands of that roaring Lyon, who is ever upon the Watch, seeking whom he may devour. 'Till then, the Course of the World, and the

'Till then, the Course of the World, and the establish'd Methods of Providence for its Government, will not admit of any exact distinctions between the one and the other.

The Sun must therefore rise in common on the Fuil and on the Good; and the Rain descend alike on the Just and on the Unjust.

General Calamities must likewise fall, for the most part, Indiscriminately; the Sword, the Pesti-

lence,

lence, and the Famine, can make no exact nor obfervable distinctions without a Miracle; and the Rules of Providence admit no Miracles in common Cases.

Diseases of all sorts must for the same reason be suffered to make a promiscuous Havock. And the length of days be represented as in the Right Hand of Religious Wisdom, and in her Left Hand Riches and Honours, this only intimates the General Propensities of Providence in savour of Virtue, together with her own native tendencies to the Consequences there ascribed to her. But she there was no this Life, as peremptorily undertakes for nothing in this Life, as having made such exceeding great and precious Promises beyond it. Even those native tendencies may easily be overborn by various Incidents and Entanglements of the present Scene; which an Eye of Faith will readily see through, and fix upon that which is within the Veil. Nor hath Providence engag'd it felf for any thing more than general Favour; and that Engagement it will certain by and effectually make good.

But now all this, in every part of it, is perfectly consistent with some Calamities happening to

But now all this, in every part of it, is perfectly confiftent with some Calamities happening to the Righteous. Even the Favour of God may be exhibited and express d in his loving Correction; his very Scourges may qualify them for his beatifick Vision, and the Furnace of Adversity may purge away their Dross, and all the Pollution which is in the World through Lust. The Dust must, by some means or other, return to the Dust as it was, or else the Spirit can never be admitted into the Presence of God who gave it: For Flesh and Blood in its present State, cannot inherit the Kingdom

Kingdom of God, neither doth Corruption inherit Incorruption. This is a peremptory Decree of Providence, to which as our original Guilt, contributed the Occasion, so our personal Demerits have abundantly justifyed the Execution of it.

So that whether the Calamities or the Felicities

of this present Life, prove to be the Lot of the Righteous, this great shock, of a Separation between Soul and Body, is the common Fate both of good and evil Men. And whether this come fooner or later, is a finall matter in the Accounts of Eternity, and of no great consequence to such as are always ready.

The Remark therefore is true in it felf, and stands Justified by its proper Reasons, that the righteous perisheth, and merciful men are taken away.

But, in the 2d place, that no Man (hould lay this to beart, that none should consider the Reasons of this procedure, nor how much of Mercy may mix with the execution of this judicial Sentence, is a Complaint which will not receive such a ready Answer; nor will the Indolence and unconcernedness of the standers by, be easily excused, who regret not the loss as they ought to do, nor sufficiently consider, that the righteous is (often) taken away from he evil to come.

This is a Consideration which interests the Wicked in the Fate of the Righteous; for if this be not always the Case, yet if it be often, or but sometimes so, it should make every Man look well about him, and take beed to his ways, when ever a Person of distinguish'd Virtue falls out of course, and leaves the World so much the worse, for his

being taken out of it.

[11]

I shall push the Complaint to no further length; than only to discommend that selfish and narrow Principle, which measures the Importance of all events by the nearness of their Relation to our own little Interests: A temper directly opposite to the large and noble Spirit of Religion, and utterly defructive to the great Law of general Benevolence!
But instead of pursuing this Complaint, I shall

rather chuse to strike into another Path, and to lay before you such Considerations, as may awaken in you a Sense of the general loss, when a good Man is taken away. And no one (it is hoped) will represent himself of so little Consequence, as to be wholly unconcern'd in a publick Cause.

First then, I entreat you upon this Occasion to observe with me, the Advantage derivable from a mood Frample.

good Example.

The Roman Orator's Remark upon (the moreov) the Graces of Virtue, is a just and elegant Reprefentation of it, and holds perfectly true of Religious, Wisdom, viz. *that if it could be embodyed and made Visible, it's Charms would be so engaging and attractive, that each Beholder would wonderfully fall in Love with it.

We often complain, and not without some shew of Reason, that the Difficulties of Virtue, and the Temptations which furround us in common Life, are very grievous, and almost unsurmountable; and when we are exhorted to be followers of Christ, or to take his blessed Apostles for our Example, we are too ready with our Answer, that their Ad-

^{*} Formam quidem ipsam (Marce Fili) & tanquam saciem Honesti vides, qua, si Oculis cerneretur, Mirabiles amores, (ut ait Plato) exci-taret Sapientia. Cicero de Ossic. Lib. 1. vantages

vantages were as extraordinary as their Attain-ments, and that the measure of their Assistances, came fully up to the utmost heighth of their Tem-

ptations.

But there is no answering the Argument, which is drawn from a good Man's Practice in common Cases: Each Action coming from Him, carries a Proof along with it, that no more is required of us, than what is fairly practicable. He is a standing Argument, that the Grace of God is sufficient for us, and brands all those who abuse it, with

a note of Infamy, and just Reproach.

And when Christian Prudence is joyned to his other Virtues, how engaging, how lovely is such a Spectacle? How powerfully does it excite and provoke to Imitation? He who can withstand the force of it, must have his Heart very hard and impenetrable; and even then perhaps he will secretly like what he will not openly avow, and will wish he cou'd practice what nothing but Sloth

will will he could practice what nothing but Stoll and Softness restrain him from Performing.

Wherefore, in the Death of a Righteous Man, the Good who are lest behind, lose a powerful Incentive to Perseverance and to Growth in Grace;

Nor are the Wicked in any measure Gainers by it, though they esteem'd him as a grievance while he Lived among them, because (as the Book of Wisdom hath observ'd) * he was not for their turn, but clean contrary to their doings; he continually upbraided them with their offending the Law, and objected to their Infamy the transgressings of their Education. But now by the very Infamy which

[&]quot; Wild. 2. 12.

he objected to them, and by the filent Reproof of his better Practice, there was good hope that he might have shamed them into some Amendment, and that the Lustre of bis Example, might have enabled them to fee at length the Stains and Blemishes of their own.

So that the loss of a good Man, is the loss of a publick Good, and the Righteous and the Wicked. have each of them their Part and Share in it.

And this will further appear, if we consider secondly, that the *Judgments* of God are often post-poned, often quite averted, and on the other side, his *Mercies* are frequently procured, frequently enlarged to a Church and State, for the sake of the Righteous, the eminently Good and Virtuous who are found therein; which makes the loss of them a publick and common Calamity.

Somewhat of this the Text hath intimated, when it represents to us, that the Righteous are taken away from the Evil to come. Which amounts to a strong suggestion, that the Evil of National Punishments is often deferr'd, till the Righteous

are removed out of its way and reach.

Even a Sodom could not be destroyed, till righ, teous Lot was gotten into a Place of fafety; * and had Nine more fuch Persons as himself been found in it, it would not have been destroy'd at all, Gen. 18. 32.

In the midst of great, (and I fear, deferv'd) Complaints of general Corruption, we have still (God be thanked) this ground of Comfort lest us, that Numbers amongst us may well be presum'd sincere-

[#] Gen. 19. 22.

ly Religious, not only in the judgment of Charity, but also of Common Justice. And from the Instances we have upon Record of the Dealings of Providence, we may well conclude, the Hand of the destroying Angel stayed for their sakes.

So that when any Man of distinguish'd Virtue, is called off to a Place of Rest and Sasety, there is the less Security for those who are lest behind him; the Proportion between the Good and the Bad is alter'd; the Scale of the one grows heavier, and that of the other lighter; and by consequence, the demand for Vengeance becomes the more importunate, and there are fewer Impediments to prevent or hinder the Execution.

El The Prayer of a righteous Man availeth much; and Intercession makes always a considerable part in a good Man's Prayers; fo that, as well for obtaining the Mercies, as for averting the Judgments of God, a Man of Probity and Religion is of fignal use to the Community of which he is a Member; and even his personal Abode carries with it a Blessing to the Place which enjoys it.

Laban, we read * was blessed from Jacob's dwelling with him. The Egyptian's House was blessed for Joseph's sake; † and that whole Land soon after felt the Benefit of giving entertainment to

after, felt the Benefit of giving entertainment to

fuch a Guest, Gen. 41. 48.

Upon any Apprehensions of an over-ruling Providence, this is easily conceivable; and even common Sense and Reason (when once the Fact is well attested) will readily give into it, that thus it should ordinarily and often be, whatever Exceptions

^{*} Gen. 35. 30.

the Rule may fometimes admit of. For that the righteous Lord should thus bonour, thus encourage, Righteousness, is as natural and obvious, as that his Countenance should behold the thing that is just; where-ever he beholds he cannot but approve and love it.

Even in a natural way, I observe thirdly, that a good Man is a publick good; like the Fountain of good it self, he is good, and he does good: Like the Author and Finisher of his Faith, he goes about doing good; it is his Meat and Drink to do the Will of God; he doth good to all as he hath Opportunity; and receives no pleasure like that of giving it. What a World would this be, if All were thus

What a World would this be, if All were thus like minded? Thus alike inclin'd to the Offices of Benevolence? What a Cure wou'd the Mischiess arising from Pevishness, Pride, and Perverseness find in this heavenly frame of Temper and Disposition? What a blessed Calm and Harmony would succeed, in the room of that Unquietness and Discord, which are now the Complaints of every Street and Corner?

It is not the fault of the Righteous, if these several Evils do not find a Cure; if all the good which is possible to be done, be not done astually. He is ever in readiness to lend out his Hand to the blessed Work; to contribute his share to this desired Harmony. If others were not wanting to their parts, the face of the Earth might be renew'd; and though the place of Paradice should continue yet unknown to us, we might hence be able to guess a little at the State of it. Even the meanest figure, and the narrowest circumstance in Life and Fortune, have somewhat of this Power left to them, which

which whoever abuses, deserves the name of somewhat worse than an unprositable Servant; but whoever makes a proper Improvement of the Talents lent to him, is a Friend of Mankind, and becomes thence entitled to the further (bonourable) appellation of, the Friend of God.

The time alotted me for this Discourse, will not permit me to proceed further in this Argument, nor to give you some other Reasons which would abundantly confirm to you the Truth of the Observation, that a good Man is a publick good, and therefore that the loss of him, is a publick and common Calamity and Loss.

I must therefore pass to the last and hardest part of my present Undertaking, the Character which my Text hath given of some certain Person, who is stilled in it Righteous, or Merciful.

I have already told you, that I apprehend my self sufficiently warranted by the Phraseology of Holy Writ, to understand this Character in a sense of Latitude, and therefore to comprize in it the Whole Duty of Man.

the Whole Duty of Man.

We need not feek with any critical Curiofity for the Person here peculiarly design'd by the Prophet; whether it were Hezekias, or Josias, or any other religious King, or Prophet, then lately deceased; since the Occasion of my present Discourse points to our Memories One so like the Person there designed, that there will be no need of looking that the need to be not need for any nearer Resemblance.

The Whole Duty of Man consists, we know, of three Principal Branches, respecting God, his Neighbour, and Himself; and whoever sincerely labours to adorn them, is Righteous in a Gospel sense,

though

though he be not perfectly cleanfed, according to the Purification of the Santtuary. Let us fee then whether the prophetick Age were the only one, which could furnish out such a Character.

Here our departed Friend being Dead yet speaks what, Living, his Modesty would not suffer him to think.

I can have no end to serve by flattering his Memory; nor do I fear the Imputation of it, in a case where all the difficulty will be to say enough. For 1. In the Duties of Godliness, how Assiduous he

was and Fervent, how Uniform and Constant, how Serious and Unaffected, you are all my Witnesses; and will join with me in this Testimony of him, that we know not where either our Religion, or our Place of Worship hath a brighter Ornament lest to either.

His constant attendance at the Eucharistical Sacrifice, his exemplary and reverend Behavior there, was fo very Edifying and Conspicuous, as help'd to warm many cold and lukewarm Hearts, and to inflame them with a like Spirit of true and fervent Piety.

Such regular and orderly Devotion, such a pure and holy Flame, an Heart so zealously affected, with an Head to govern it so cool and temperate, how beautiful, how engaging was the goodly

Pattern?

Was it, did I say? I hope, I believe, I may say, it is so still in manifold other Instances; Some of them doubtless form'd upon the Model of His Example; which I trust will spread yet more and further.

ther, and go on to make, where it do's not find,

many ready followers.

Religion feem'd indeed, and doubtless was, the Case of his Life; it grew, it flourish'd observably, moder the happy influence of His pious Endeavors,

and his engaging Practice.

His Learning, large as it was and various, was set a-part for the Service of the Altar, and sanctified to Religious Uses. And many a pious Soul breathes daily to God it's holy Aspirations of Prayer and Praise, in the Language of His Heart and Tongue. For such holy purposes, his Tongue was the Pen of a ready Writer to what his Heart Endited. His Works in this kind will live, I dare forefell, as long as our Language, and even then will deserve to have a New Language given them.

His Zeal, and his Knowledge, serv'd each other so mutually, with such reciprocal Kindness, that the one was neither barren nor unfruitful, nor the Other giddy nor Excessive: His Light and his Heat were so justly proportioned, corresponded so well, and so aptly together, and his Will was so duly subordinate to his Understanding, that his Religion size upon him with all the Graces of outward Decency, as well as with all the Intrinsick Beauties of

Holiness.

of his Service; and therefore only preferr'd, above others, The Church of England, because here, he thaught, that Honour best consulted. He understown by due enquiry; that she was the most contornable both in Doctrine and Government, to the local once and first delivered to the Saints. For acither his Faith nor his Practice proceeded upon Trust.

Missing Page

Missing Page

poses, but all his Oeconomy was design'd to make room for Charity: Which he did not so much reserve for Bequests at his Death, * as like a Wise and a good Steward he was a Liberal Dispenser of it in his Life. Pompous he would be in Neither, that in Both he might be more Useful.

In the last place, for the Personal Virtues; they were no less cultivated, no less recommended by the

advantage of His Practice, than were the Offices of

Piety, and the focial Duties.

No Man ever advanced the Character of a private Gentleman to a more elevated pitch than he; in Him the Gentleman and the Christian were so happily united, He did so Adorn Religion, and was fo Adorned by it, that the rifing Generation may hence with great advantage observe, how perfectly confistent these Characters are, and how much they may Both be depreciated by a neglect of their common Duties. To separate the One from the Other is indeed to spoil them both, or at least very much to disparage and discommend them. Meekness will appear no such mean, low spirited Principle, when it thines in a Form like His, and instead of raising your Contempt, engages your Esteem and Reverence. He had studyed both Books and Men; knew the

Fallacies of the One, and the Follies of the Other: Yet was ever more ready to discern a Merit or a Virtue, than a Weakness, or a Vice in either.

Hence that Unpassionate, Equal, and Candid frame of Mind, (which shone in Him with peculiar Graces) took it's Rise and it's Establishment.

Self-love had on Him no other Instuence, than,

^{*} Yet the Residuary part of his whole Estate he hath left to Pious and Charitable Uses. what

what is it's only proper One, the Direction of all his Aims and Purposes to the supreme Good of Man, which is the Glory of God, and the Salvation of his own Soul.

Hence he deriv'd that admirable Calm and Patience, that firm Affiance in the Mercies of God through Christ Jesus, that full Assurance of Hope in his Promises, which supported him under the Weakness and Pressures of a lingring Obstinate Distemper, and sweetned to him at last, the very bitterness of Death itself.

Thus he ended, as he had all along spent his Days; was the same Person still; maintaining the same Character, and carrying it with him to

the Place of Refreshment.

He dyed, as he had lived, like a Lamb, without Commotion or Struggle; submissive to the Will of God, and entirely resign'd to his holy Providence. And having born the Character of a Righteous and Merciful Man in his Life, he hath, I doubt not, the Blessing also assign'd by the Prophet to such, in the Verse following my Text, that he is Entred into Peace, that he rests in his Bed, and walks in his own Uprightness. And them who thus sleep in Jesus, will God bring again with him.

Jesus, will God bring again with him.

And now to conclude; I fain would hope I need not further labour the Recommendation of this excellent Example: I speak, I know, to an Audience of Gentlemen as well as Christians; and here you have seen Both united with singular advantage. He knew how to preserve the Characters from interfering, and wore them Both with a distinguish'd Lustre.

I beseech you therefore Brethren, by the Mercies of God, and in the Bowels of Christ, that you would

confider

consider in the first place the Honour of your Vo-cation, and the Dignity of Him who hath call'd

you to it

The Distinctions in this Life are of far less Consequence, than those which await you in another. The Decencies of Figure and Station need not be dropp'd in favour of Religion, which only requires a just Regulation, and due Improvement of outward Advantages, but for the rest, permits the Use, and even sweetens the Enjoyment of them.

Only, let not the glitter, or pride of Life, so dazzle your Eyes, as to prevent you from feeing the things which belong unto your Peace.

Let not the Pleasures of the World have too

much Indulgence for no better reason, than because they are so much within your reach and power.

Let not the Leisure wherewith a favourable Providence hath blesd'd you, be abused to the purposes either of a flothful Indolence, or a vicious Practice; but rather with a becoming Diligence be applyed (as you have seen it in this fair Example) to the Improvement of others, and to make your own Calling and Election sure. The good you may do to the World and to your selves, will find you ample Employment for all your spare Moments; and the Time so spent will never string you with any After-reflections.

And now that we are going to offer up to God the great and solemn Sacrifice of Thanksgiving, we may not improperly mix with it our peculiar Praises to his Holy Name, for all the Glories of his Grace, which so eminently shone forth in this

his faithful Servant.

Exemplary

Exemplary Virtues had this encouragement in the Primitive Church, that the Names of such as were Eminent for the Practice of them, were remembred with Honour in her most solemn Offices. In our most solemn Offices, the Devotions of many are doubtless here and elsewhere assisted by the pious Labours of our departed Friend.* So that when we are praising God for all his Servants desparted this Life in his Faith and Fear, this eminent Servant of God may well deserve from us, a more especial Commemoration.

At the same time let us beseech the Father of Mercies, that he would give us his Grace so to sollow both this, and every other good Example, that we may all at length have an happy meeting in that other and better World, where with Angels and Arch-angels, with this our deceased Friend and Brother, with the general Assembly of God's Elect, and all the spirits of just Men made perfect, we may Daud and Magnify his glorious Name, evermore praising Him, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

To whom be Glory and Dominion both now and for evermore. Amen.

FINIS.

A Short and Practical Discourse upon the Holy Fast of Lent, by J. Marshall, L. L. D.

^{*} Especially by that excellent Book of His, emituled The Great Dury of frequenting the Christian Sacrifice, which is rarely equall'd, and no where, that I know of, exceeded, in its peculiar usefulness and propriety for that sacred Service

